

I favor total elimination of Morse code testing as a requirement for obtaining an

Amateur Radio license. The FISTS petition demonstrates that Morse is a popular (if fading), enjoyable mode of operation for those who choose to pursue it. But today, it is just another mode among many. It does not deserve to be singled out

as a skill that all must learn for full privileges. The required knowledge of

Morse does not enhance the quality level of the Amateur service - most of the serious "problem hams" have passed Morse code exams. And while cw does have the ability to get through in an emergency when other, more complex modes do not, it is rarely used for that today. Rather, the requirement has prevented many potentially valuable and otherwise very interested people from entering the service. Those "missing" people are not there at all to participate in emergency communications on ANY mode. Morse code has served Amateur Radio well for decades, but its time has past. The examination requirements for an Amateur license should not be a shrine. Let those who are attracted to cw learn it and gain proficiency of their own volition.